

June 15, 1775

The Continental Congress at Philadelphia
appointed initially Colonel George
Washington "to Command all the
Continental forces, raised or to be raised
for the defense of the American liberty

June 17, 1775

①

General Prescott put his men to work building a redoubt on Breed's Hill

When John Stark arrived on morning of June 17, he could see that the British could outflank them on the right. He promptly ordered his men to double the rail fence on the Mystic River side and fill the intervening space with guns to provide a backstop for British firepower. Then he ordered his men to build a stone wall from the rail fence to the water's edge. This is

just where General Howe expected to outflank the rebels
The British demanded that their men carry full
regulation field packs of 125 # ea. with blankets
ammunition, 3 days cooked rations in addition to their
full uniforms of red coats, white breeches and sherry
black gaiters, all for a journey of a few hundred yds
on one of the hottest days of the year.

June 17, 1775

Pyrrhic British victory
at Bunker Hill

June 17, 1775

(About lunch hour)

②

Have landed in Martin's Point with 1550 troops but sent back to Sage for reinforcements. In the interval, his men broke ranks, unfastened their knapsacks, took off their helmets and - secretly and of rebel range - sat down in the grass to eat their lunch.

Stark had now joined up with Knowlton's Connecticut men and Reed's New Hampshire men at the rail fence and stone wall. He paced off 50 ft in front of his men and placed a stake in the ground.

announcing that "If anyone shoots before the enemy
reads that stake I'll knock him down."

June 17, 1775 3 PM & after

At 3, the British drums beat the long roll: the scarlet ranks of infantry forming their precise lines were an awesome sight. Howe had expected to open up against Prescott's redoubt, Sturges' fence etc with his heavy artillery, but discovered that his brass 6-pounders had been supplied with 12 # shot & were useless. The British had been told to hold their fire & to attack with bayonets. With the British barely 50 yds away, a row of muskets appeared; there was black smoke

& blaze of flame. The men of the King's own were stopped
in their tracks. The bodies of the Redcoats piled up on
the beach, some on the sand, others in the water.
Again & Again the front ranks dissolved. Finally
panic seized the survivors and they bolted for the
rear leaving 96 dead.

The second attack was by the Grenadiers led by
Horne himself. The redcoats approaching through the
tall grass were perfect targets for the farmers steadying
their muskets on the rail fence. As they dropped in
windrows, disorder grew. Finally they turned
and fled out of range of the deadly fire. His supporters
officers begged Horne to call off the engagement but Horne
insisted on one more last try.

(1)

June 17, 1875 After 3 Howe's one last try

Howe sent to Sage for more reinforcements and 400 more men arrived, gathering up the stragglers and with the new men, Howe ordered the heavy packs be laid aside.

This time they concentrated on the redoubt rather than the rail fence. Now the defenders were running short of ammo.

They fired nails, small pieces of metal and they even threw stones. As the redcoats scrambled over the barricade, Prescott ordered

a retreat

One estimate was that the British lost 1054 killed & wounded out of 2200 engaged. while the Americans lost 441 out of 3200 engaged.

Stark's men behind the rail fence managed to cover the retreat before they too withdrew. Clenton found Howe too dazed to continue, his face blank, his white garters red with blood from the long grass.

Stark & Knowlton put up a stubborn rear guard defense, their men pouring a deliberate & withering fire from behind each wall & fence before falling back.

"A dear bought victory" wrote Clenton

July 2nd, 1775

With the arrival of General Washington in Cambridge, Mass., the Massachusetts Provincial Army became the Continental Army of the thirteen Colonies.

1775-1783

American Revolutionary War

The English Colonies + France defeated England
The Colonies revolted against England because
of oppressive taxation and infringements
of what they considered their rights of
Government

The British Colonies by their representative
at Paris, JAY, FRANKLIN, & ADAMS, made a
Treaty of peace by which the independence
of the U.S. was recognized.